

## Remarks

### Request for Reconsideration

Applicant has carefully considered the matters raised by Examiner in the outstanding Office Action, but remains of the position that patentable subject matter is present. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of Examiner's position based on the amendments to the claims, amendments to the specification and the following remarks.

### Present Invention

One of the unique aspects of the present invention is that an annular groove is formed in the outer ring to impart a certain amount of elasticity to the outer ring in the region of the raceways. It is the use of an annular groove in the present invention that makes it distinguishable from prior art.

### Claim Status and Comments

Claims 1-11 are pending. Claim 1 has been amended herein. The amendments will be discussed in more detail below.

### Specification

The disclosure had been objected to because: (1) there was a reference to claim 1 on page 2, and (2) it was not clear what the phrase "such as 100Cr6" meant.

The reference to claim 1 on page 2 has been deleted and the wording of claim 1 has been added. The generic term for 100Cr6 has been inserted after 100Cr6.

A “Brief Description of the Drawings” section was added herein.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph

Claims 4-5 and 11 had been objected to under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctively claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 4 has been amended herein to depend upon claim 3, and is now deemed acceptable. Subsequently, claims 5 is now deemed acceptable. Claim 11 has been amended to depend upon claim 10, and is now deemed acceptable as well.

Prior Art Rejections

Claims 1 and 3-5 had been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Tilch, *et al.* (U.S. Patent 4,749,288); claims 2 and 6 had been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tilch; and claims 1 and 7 had been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dougherty (U.S. Patent 5,494,358) in view of Tilch.

Neither Tilch nor Dougherty (U.S. Patent 5,494,358) disclose an annular groove on the external surface of the outer ring. The annular groove of the present invention not only increases the present invention’s elasticity, but also aids in decreasing the overall weight of

the structure. Thus, since Tilch does not disclose such an annular groove, the present invention was not anticipated by Tilch.


Since claim 1 is distinguishable from Tilch and Dougherty, claims 2-11, which are dependent upon claim 1, are also distinguishable. Thus, claims 2-11 are patentable over Tilch or Dougherty taken alone or in combination.

#### Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested. Should any extensions of time or fees be necessary in order to maintain this Application in pending condition, appropriate requests are hereby made and authorization is given to debit Account Number 02-2275.

Respectfully submitted,

LUCAS & MERCANTI, LLP

By:   
Donald C. Lucas, Reg. No. 31,275  
Attorney for Applicant(s)  
475 Park Avenue South, 15<sup>th</sup> Floor  
New York, New York 10016  
Tel. 212-661-8000 Fax (212) 661-8002

DCL/JRW/ns